

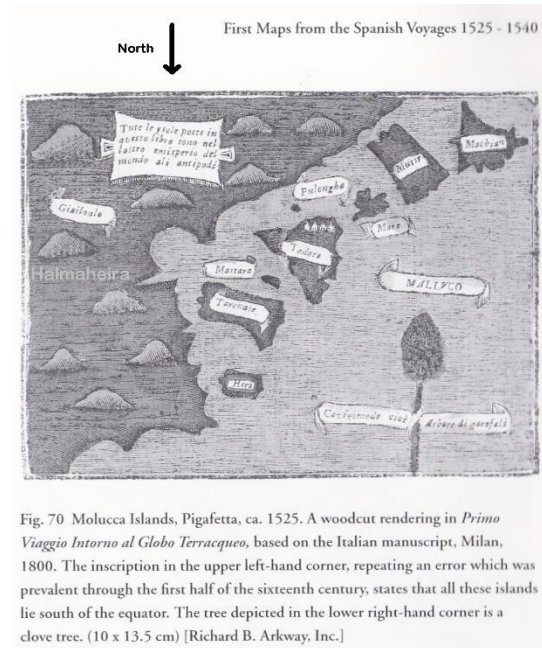
# Tuybens in the Indies

With much less documentation Gio Wiederhold is also assembling the history of his mother Cornelia Tuybens' ancestors. I describe [her parents](#) in my autobiography. Most of them lived for the several generations in the Netherlands East Indies, now Indonesia. My mother went in 1934 to Europe to study and returned in 1955 to Indonesia to teach there. In 1959 she and her second husband settled in the United States.

## Trading in spices

Gio mother's paternal ancestors were trading in cloves, at the time an important spice on the volcanic island of Ternate. The first European encounter was in 1512 by Francisco Serrão, a Portuguese explorer, [Charles Corn: *The Scents of Eden*; Kodansha publishers, 1999]. He was captain of a ship in the fleet of [Fernão de Magalhães \(Magellan\)](#), a Portuguese explorer. Ternate is one of the the Moluccan Islands also called Spice Islands. They were an import destination, following a 1510 report by an Italian adventurer, Ludivico de Varhema. After losing his ship and a fortuitous rescue that brought Serrão to Ternate, he stayed behind, becoming a counselor to Sultan Bolief. By 1513 annual trades with Portugal were started. Later he married a daughter of the Sultan of the neighboring island, Tidore, which traded with the Spanish.

The exclusive presence of precious spices as: nutmeg, mace and cloves allowed traders to make huge profits in Europe. Already in 1525 a Spanish map was illustrated with a clove tree. Questions about trading rights arose, after pope Alexander IV had divided the world with demarcation lines in the [Treaty of Tordesillas](#) of 1494 and its successor in 1529, allocating the authority to bring Christianity and control trade to the lands west of about 45°West longitude to the Spanish, then dominating the Americas, and the lands of the Indies to the east to the Portuguese. The Asian side of the world was poorly mapped, and the width of the Pacific Ocean was underestimated so it seems that the Spice Islands should be Spanish. That motivated the Spanish king to sponsor an attempt to [circumnavigate of world](#), led by Magellan, now known as Fernando de Magellanes. Magellan's fleet came to Tidore in November 1521, but he had been killed in April 1521 during a battle with natives in the Philippines. By that time Serrão had died under mysterious circumstances. One ship, the *Victoria*, of Magellan's fleet did return to Spain with a load of cloves, worth enough to pay for the 3-year voyage. On 1527 the *Victoria* returned to Tidore, but was promptly sunk there by the Portuguese. With the demarcation line allocating the islands to the Portugal, while leaving the Philippines to the Spanish, the Spanish had withdrawn by 1565. The Portuguese mishandled the relationship. A siege of their fort ensued and they had to surrender in 1575.



## The Dutch join

In 1579 the English explorer, Francis Drake visited Ternate and was welcomed, after his return, in 1588 he destroyed the Spanish Armada, halting a potential invasion of England. English influence grew. That also helped the [Dutch in gaining freedom from the Spanish](#) (1568-1648). The state of wars allowed the Dutch traders to attack ships and settlements of the Spanish and the Portuguese in Asia. Dutch and English traders started to establish trading posts in the Indies. To avoid the risky [Malacca straits](#), east of Sumatra, they later would travel through the Sunda straits, south of Sumatra, arriving in Bantam, the westernmost part of Java. In 1597 and 1600 the English obtained small islands (Run, Neira) as trading bases [map]. The Dutch, less peacefully, conquered land at Jacrata further east on Java. They built a fort, and then named the settlement Batavia, after some ancient [Germanic tribe](#) that had fought the Roman legions in the Netherlands; that city is now the [capital of Indonesia, Jakarta](#). It was a strategic importance to have a fixed and enforced trade settlement in Java to govern and control the entire Asia trade. By 1606 the Spanish withdrew. The focus of trade moved south, and Ternate lost its role as a trading hub.

The VOC managed to displace the English traders, who started focusing on India and Singapore. Between 1602 and 1795 the VOC sponsored over 4700 voyages to the Indies. More than 1.5 million Europeans went there, many from neighboring countries. The population of the Netherlands was only 2 million at the time. Fewer than a third returned, many died, while some settled there and at intermediate places, as South Africa, Cochin, in India, and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). That meant that VOC recruit sailors, soldiers and craftsmen from German, Scandinavian and Baltic countries as well.

In Europe, between 1652 and 1784 [four naval wars were fought between the English and the Dutch](#) to gain control over the seas and overseas possessions, including in the Americas. In 1667 the English traded their remaining base island in the Indies, Run, for a Dutch occupied island in the Americas 20 times larger, Manhattan; Nieuw Amsterdam became New York. The fourth war between the English and the Dutch did not turn out that well for the Dutch in Europe, but did not affect the Dutch merchants in the Indies [Charles Korn: The Scents of Eden, a History of the Spice trade; Kodansha, New York & Tokyo, 1998]. Over time, the merchants started to seek help from their governments as well. By 1780 (earlier) Dutch naval vessels started protecting the Malaysian straits. In 1788 the VOC went broke, due to the damages inflicted on their merchant fleet by the English. The Dutch States took over the possessions of the VOC protected by the Dutch Navy. During the Napoleonic wars the (Dutch) Batavian Republic took the side of the French. The Dutch ruler, Willem V. Batavus van Oranje (1748-1806) fled to England. The Dutch possessions in the East were 'taken care of' by the English. After the fall of Napoleon, the Dutch East Indies were given back to the Dutch but the English kept in the Treaty of London (1824) several of the former Dutch possessions (like Ceylon, Malacca, South-Africa). By 1801 the English had broken the spice monopoly by surreptitiously removing seedlings and growing them outside of the original Spice Islands.

## Tuybens arrive

A generation earlier the first of Gio's ancestors had arrived in the Indies. In 1768, Andreas Georg Heinrich Teubes was hired as a soldier by the [Dutch East Indies trading company](#) (VOC) in the German town Wolfenbüttel. He was 22 years old. At that age Andreas may have been in the service of the local duke, [Karl I. von Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel](#) (1713-1780) and would have had military training. It is likely that the duke facilitated those hiring arrangements and received a fee. Duke Karl I. himself had been a Generalfeldwachtmeister (about equal to a Lieutenant General) in the German imperial army, but later supported Prussia. He made many civil investments, but was broke by 1773 and turned the duchy over to his son.

Andreas, on the VOC records as Andreas Tuijbes and Tuijbens, was assigned to serve on the ship *Huis te Bijweg*, a ship of the Amsterdam kamer of the VOC. The VOC kept detailed records <summarize> of all events regarding him. I also received the Dutch ship records via Georg Molenkamp. Andreas would have left from the port of Texel, in the Netherlands on 12 November 1768. That port could handle the larger vessels for the India trade, that the shallow waters around Amsterdam could not accommodate. Andreas returned via the Cape of Good Hope to Amsterdam the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 1769. Subsequently 5 more trips are shown. On the last trip the *Huis te Bijweg* was beached at the Cape but returned 20 Feb 1774 to Amsterdam. The ship was decommissioned in December 1780. There may be subsequent ship records for him with the *Zoutman* (1785).

Andreas left the service of the VOC in March 1775 in Batavia, Java, the East Indies – now Jakarta, Jawa, Indonesia, and was paid what he was due. <amount>.

In the records of the VOC Andreas listed as Andreas Tuijbens and Andreas Tuijbes. In the VOC their employees are listed according to their given names, since the Dutch did not use family names, but patronyms, the son of a father named, say Jan Klassensz would be Pieter Jansens. Hence the spelling change from Teubes not as drastic as it would be in a modern registry. It appears that in January 1775 Andreas, recorded there as Teubes married in Capetown, South Africa, Josina Catharina von Wielligh. The soon had two children there, a son in December 1775 and a daughter in 1777. Josina died and in 1791 Andreas married a younger wife and had 4 more children with her in South Africa.

But now a question arises. The earliest Tuybens ancestor documented in Ternate is Mathias Melchior Tuybens. He died there in 1825 at a “fort age”, having a father Andreas from the VOC Zeeland chamber. No mother is shown. It seems hence that he was born prior to Andreas’ marriage and residence in South Africa. The records there are sparse, since Ternate was an outlying protectorate of the VOC prior to the British taken over the Netherlands East-Indies in 1811-1816, during the Napoleonic wars [Thomas Stamford Raffles: History of Java; 1817]. No population records were provided by the ruling Sultan to the Dutch.

### Ternate

The island in [Ternate \(history in Dutch\)](#) is just north of the equator. Because its location is so obscure, I inserted a map with pointers. Singapore is about 2000 miles due West and Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, as well, but further south. The area is mainly visited by scuba divers, who, in addition to viewing fish and corals enjoy finding undersea remnants of war machinery, sunk or dumped during the second World War and its aftermaths.



While small (about 10x10km or 43 square miles), the Island of Ternate appears in variety of contexts. In addition to its initial role in the [spice trade, described above](#), it is also cited for volcanic activity and frequent [earthquakes](#). The Dutch arrived in 1599 and converted an earlier fortress as the capital for their trade monopoly around 1609. The remains still exist as a tourist attraction.

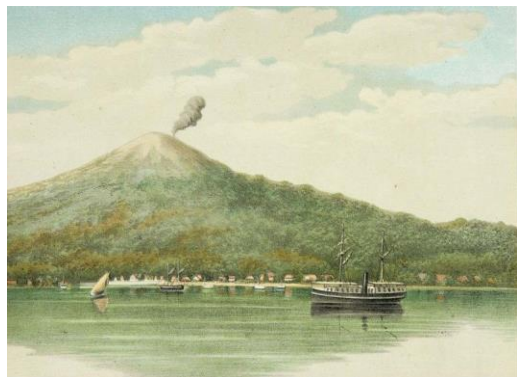


Between 1854 and 1862 Ternate was used as base for the natural history research of [Alfred Russel Wallace](#). The island is at the [Wallace line](#), the boundary of what is now considered South-east Asia to the west and Polynesia and Australia, to the east.

Few animal species cross that boundary; Russel's studies provided useful material to Darwin in formulating evolution. While several local names are cited in his writings, it seems that the Tuybens, Wiggers, and Paulus did not warrant mentioning.

The Tuybens married local girls there; some were descendants of the Portuguese traders who had initiated the spice trade after Vasco da Gama's explorations in 1498. In 1511 Afonso de Albuquerque had captured Malacca and, after a shipwreck his vice-captain, Francisco Serrão, built in 1522 a fortress and trading post on Ternate. The Dutch defeated the Portuguese and in 1607 rebuilt the fort, As Fort Oranje. It became the Indies headquarters for the VOC until 1619, when the VOC moved to Batavia, now Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia.

Ternate was then quite isolated from the main Dutch activities, and the local sultan remained in control up the Napoleonic wars, when the lands controlled by the VOC fell under British rule.



Ternate around 1883-1889

The volcanic soil seems to promote cultivation of cloves. Its volcano, Mount Gamalama erupts regularly and sometimes with much force (1673, 1772, 1840, 1980). We had planned to go there with our children in 1998, but there were anti-Chinese riots in Sulawesi, and went to China instead. In fact, Singapore Airlines, cancelled its flights to Manado, the nearest large airport. We tried again to visit Ternate in 2011, but a smaller eruption had caused the airport to close. We just enjoyed Manado, which has volcanic features as well. I regret never getting to Ternate, although it is unlikely that any family records could be found there.

The Central Bureau voor Genealogie (CBG), part of the Dutch National Archive in the Hague, provides much information. I have purchased their 2-CD set of the Regerings Almanak (1815-1942) which is primarily a collection of annual addresses, birth, marriages, and deaths for European or senior Indonesian officials. From those I have been able to enter a fairly complete family record for that period. These link to Dutch records as well, going far back. It appears that there is even a common ancestor with the Wiederhold line <identify>. Many more Dutch ancestor records were assembled by a cousin, Loes van Beuge, later Davis, who emigrated with her family to Utah shortly before I left the Netherlands.

My mother's brother, Wim Tuybens (1905-1979), recounted many tales of the family history and provided some notes, including Andreas date of death, and the VOC reference. It included was a date 1601, but that was actually the date when the VOC was founded. Wim was a prisoner of the Japanese from 1942, and worked on building airfields for them, including in Burma. It seems that wounds he incurred there

made it impossible for him to have children. He returned to Holland after the war and a married there, living in Amsterdam and later, when he could no longer deal with the steep stairs there, in Breda.

I have a lengthy letter that my uncle Wim wrote in 1971 to his cousin Otto Tuybens (\*1924). He wrote that he was told by his older brother, Johann Frederik Tuybens (\*1899) in 1947, when they met in Batavia, that the name was originally spelled Tuylens, and that the family came from Zeeland, the part of the Netherlands that borders on Belgium. It states also that a Tuybens first arrived in Ternate in 1648, working with a family Wiggers. But the earliest cite I could find on Ternate was the 1825 death of Mathias Melchior Tuybens, at a 'Fort Age' indicating that he was likely at least 50 years old, so perhaps born 1768. The earliest related Wiggers I now have is Eugenius Karl Wiggers (\*1814). One of his daughters married a grandson of Mathias Melchior Tuybens. They jointly owned a "perk" – small plantation "Kalaumata" on the southern slope of the Gamalama volcano. They also were traders and built and operated ships, with a downtown (Kota Ternate) address at the corner of Lijnbaanstraat (rope-makers street) and Fiscaalstraat (tax-collectors street). Wim's brother also referred to them repeatedly as zee rovers (pirates). They supposedly had a license from the VOC to protect the northern sea routes. According to Wim they might also have engaged in pearl-fishing, although I think it is more likely that they merely traded in what others obtained. Wim's story continues that an early Tuybens participated in capturing one of the annual Spanish ships that brought orphaned women to Manilla for their Philippine colony. Women on-board were then married off to Dutch bachelors. Wim assumes that the wife of Adriaan Melchior Tuybens (\*1790), namely Esther de Laos (\*~1809) was one of these women. But I found in VOC records that her father, Paulus de Lalos – likely Portuguese, lived at the date of the marriage already in Ternate. So a romantic story I used to repeat is not substantiated by the facts.

I have no records of current Tuybens family members, the family was decimated in the Second World War.

There are likely some early interactions of the Tuybens and Wiederhold trees. One might be Jacobus Blankwaard \*1751.



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